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the first or rectified conical projection is about half that of the second or orthomorphic projection. In view of this superiority in the more correct representation of areas, and of the fact that the British Isles are far longer in a north and south than in an east and west direction, the rectified conical projection with two standard parallels was chosen and submitted to a detailed discussion, under formulæ which are clearly presented in the paper with an elegant simplicity, resulting in setting forth that the British contribution to the map of the world on a scale of 1/1,000,000 will be subject in linear and areal measurements to an error no greater than one part in four hundred and thirty-three, and in directional measurements to an error no greater than eight minutes of arc.

The author has chosen for the name of the adopted projection The Minimum Error Rectified Conical Projection with two Standard Parallels.

W. G. L.

Guido Rey. Il Monte Cervino. Illustrazioni di Edoardo Rubino, Prefazione di Edmondo de Amicis, Nota Geologica di Vittorio Novarese, 14 Tavole Colorate, 23 Disegni a Penna e Undici Fotografie. Ulrico Hoepli Editore-Libraio della Real Casa, Milano, 1904. 8vo. (Price, 25 lire.)

Mr. de Amicis thinks that to many persons a mountain will seem to be too small a subject for a big volume; but he advises them to read before they condemn. Every mountain is an interesting subject, and the Matterhorn has peculiar claims upon the reader.

The modern story of the great mountain begins with H. B. de Saussure, who devoted so many years to the study of the Alps. After the publication of his book (*Voyages dans les Alpes, 4 vols., 1780-1796*) tourists began to find their way into Switzerland, and in 1838 Murray brought out the first *Handbook* of that country. In those days travellers had to put up with strange fare and poor accommodations. There was a change for the better about 1860, when Mr. Rey finds in the Visitors' Book at Valtournanche the names of Bonney, Tyndall, Craufurd Grove, Leslie Stephen, Freshfield, and Mummery. An entry under the 27th of August, 1861, reads:

Edward Whymper en route for the Matterhorn.

Mr. Whymper had yet to encounter many defeats before his triumph on the 14th of July, 1865, when he and his guide Croz stood at last on the top of the "inaccessible" mountain.

Mr. Rey writes of Whymper with sympathy and admiration, and

regrets, with Whymper himself, that the conquest of the Matterhorn was achieved without Jean-Antoine Carrel.* Carrel missed it by three days. On the 17th of July, 1865, he and J. B. Bich, two out of four who ascended from the southern side, reached the summit of the mountain and planted their flag by the side of the cairn erected on the 14th by Whymper and Croz.

Two years passed before another attempt was made, and then, little by little, the climbing of the Matterhorn came to be regarded as part of the regular Swiss round. In 1871 Miss Walker made the ascent, and Vittorio Sella, after two failures, succeeded in 1882 in reaching the summit on the 17th of March, the first ascent made in the winter season. In 1892 twenty-three travellers and their numerous guides met on the same day on the top of the Matterhorn.

From time to time a fatal accident occurs, to warn the tourist of ever-present perils; but the telegraph and the railroad, none the less, threaten to invade the once unconquerable Matterhorn.

Mr. Rey is an alpinist, and has taken his share of mountain dangers. His sixth chapter, entitled *Il Cervino di Furggen*, is the description of a performance that oppresses the reader like a nightmare, and makes him adopt for his own the comment quoted from the *Journal de Genève* (Sept. 15, 1899):

The Italian clubbist who had himself hoisted up the overhanging crest of Furggen deserves to be fined. He is a dangerous madman.

Mr. Rey confesses that he had not seen the matter in that light. There are but two kinds of persons in the world; those who are alpinists and those who are not.

The illustrations of the book, 48 in number, are not all effective, though they are well reproduced. The most striking are those from photographs, such as *The Summit of the Matterhorn from Giomein* and *The Matterhorn at Sunset*.

A summary of the geology of the mountain closes this magnificent publication.

Anschauliche Grundlagen der Mathematischen Erdkunde zum Selbstverstehen und zur Unterstützung des Unterrichts von Dr. Kurt Geissler. Mit 52 Figuren im Text. Leipzig Druck und Verlag von B. G. Teubner. (Marks 3.) 1904.

This is an elementary text-book, judiciously arranged for the

* He was the man, of all those who attempted the ascent of the Matterhorn, who most deserved to be the first upon its summit. He was the first to doubt its inaccessibility, and he was the only man who persisted in believing that its ascent would be accomplished. (Whymper, *The Ascent of the Matterhorn*, p. 280.)